

Government of Madras.

HOME DEPARTMENT

(EDUCATION)

G.O. No. 237, 22nd February 1917



INDEXED

Ancient Monuments

Sanctioning the permanent inclusion of certain monuments at Udayagiri in the Nellore district in the list of — selected for conservation and requesting the Collector of Nellore to submit a draft notification for declaring them protected under the Act.

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N. P.
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GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

HOME DEPARTMENT

(Education)

READ—the following papers :—

I

Letter—from A. H. LONGHURST, Esq., Superintendent, Archaeological Survey, Southern Circle.
To—the Secretary to Government, Home (Education) Department (through the Collector of Nellore).
Dated—(Camp) Udayagiri, the 1st February 1917.
No.—72.

I have the honour to request that Government may be pleased to accord sanction to the permanent inclusion in the Standard List of Ancient Monuments of the following buildings situated at Udayagiri in the Udayagiri taluk of the Nellore district :—

- (1) Raghunāyaka temple.
- (2) Krishna temple with gopuram, Kalyanamandapa and masonry-built tank.

The ruined temple of Raghunāyaka contains historic inscriptions of the later Vijayanagar period which are recorded in Part III of the published "Collection of Inscriptions in the Nellore district" by Messrs. Butterworth and Venugopala Chetti. It also contains the ruins of two handsome gopurams or gateways which are worthy of preservation from further decay. At present, the temple enclosure is overgrown with rank vegetation and is in use as a public latrine.

2. Certain Vijayanagar inscriptions record that when Krishna Deva Rāya (the greatest of all the Vijayanagar kings) captured Udayagiri fort in 1513, he took away with him an image of Krishna and set up the same in the Krishna temple which he built specially for it at Vijayanagar (Hampi). In November last, I discovered this historic image and sent it to the Madras Museum and I visited Udayagiri recently with the main object of discovering, if possible, the temple from which the image in question was removed in 1513. The oldest temple at Udayagiri is a ruined shrine surrounded by cactus to the south of the town which was originally dedicated to Krishna as the sculptures clearly denote and the shrine chamber is empty although the pedestal on which the image once stood still remains. Although Krishna may be regarded as one of the most popular of Hindu deities, temples specially dedicated to Krishna are exceedingly rare and very few of them exist in India to-day. An examination of the ruined Krishna temple at Udayagiri has left me with little doubt that this particular building is the identical temple from which Krishna Rāya removed the image so long ago. The temple faces the north, and at a short distance to the south-east is a small masonry built tank, an unfinished gateway or gopuram and an unfinished but handsome Kalyanamandapa. The gateway and the unfinished Kalyanamandapa appear to have been erected later, at a period when it was decided to enclose the temple within a courtyard. None of these buildings contain any inscriptions to guide one, but architecturally the Krishna temple would appear to date from the 14th century and the unfinished gateway and mandapa to the 16th century, thus indicating that the work was stopped when the image in the temple was removed.

3. The Krishna temple is ownerless and is no longer used for worship and stands on Government land. The small masonry-built tank is used by the local washermen and is in a filthy condition in consequence. The gopuram and the Kalyanamandapa are covered in rank vegetation. A portion of the temple enclosure has been planted with mango trees. I am now preparing "Inspection Notes" on the repairs required to these monuments at Udayagiri but before any action can be taken by the Public Works Department to save these five interesting historic remains from further decay, it will be necessary to have them permanently included in the standard list. I understand that they all belong to Government. However, since the local villagers appear to regard these old ruins as their own special property and have been using the Raghunāyaka temple as a stone and brick quarry for years, I think it would be as well to have these five monuments "declared protected" in order to avoid trouble in the future. Although none of these buildings are at present in use as places of worship, it often happens that, soon after any repairs are carried out at Government expense a local attempt is made to revive the worship and to acquire the building, and more often than not, to ruin its appearance with modern additions or paint and whitewash.

II

Endorsement N. Dis. on C. No. 522-Gl./Cor., dated 10th February 1917.

Forwarded and recommended.

R. RAMACHANDRA RAO,
 Collector.

Order—No. 237, Home (Education), dated 22nd February 1917.

The Government sanction the permanent inclusion in the list of ancient monuments selected for conservation of the undermentioned monuments situated at Udayagiri in the Udayagiri taluk of the Nellore district :—

- (1) Raghunāyaka temple.
- (2) Krishna temple with gopuram, Kalyanamandapa and masonry-built tank.

2. The Collector of Nellore is requested to submit to Government a draft notification under section 3 of the Ancient Monuments Preservation Act declaring the above monuments protected under the Act.

(True Extract)

E. A. HARVEY,
 Acting Secretary to Government.

To the Superintendent, Archaeological Survey.
 „ Collector of Nellore.
 Copy to the Public Works Department.
 „ Assistant Archaeological Survey for Epigraphy.
 Editors' Table (order only).

HOME (EDUCATION) DEPARTMENT

NOTES CONNECTED WITH G.O. No. 237, HOME (EDUCATION),
DATED THE 22ND FEBRUARY 1917

[SUBJECT.—*Conservation of certain monuments at Udayagiri in the Nellore district.*]

From the Superintendent, Archaeological Survey, No. 72, dated the 1st February 1917.

There seems to be no objection to including the monuments mentioned in the Superintendent's letter in the Conservation list.

2. The suggestion to declare the monuments which are stated to be Government property is in accord with the Government of India's instructions—vide G.O. No. 360, Public, dated the 21st March 1914. The Collector of Nellore who recommends the proposal may be asked to submit a draft notification under section 3 of the Ancient Monuments Preservation Act.

3. A draft order is submitted for approval.

E.A.V.—17-2-17.

T.K.—17-2-17.

C. RAMANUJA ACHARIYAR—20-2-17.

E. A. HARVEY—22-2-17.

[G.O. No. 237, Home (Education), dated the 22nd February 1917.]

C. No. 666, From the Super. Wash. Univ. No. 72, dated Mar. 12. 1917

" " Seeds of the ball of Nallur, N. D. S. no 522 gl. 189
 the 10th Feb. 1917. col

No. 237, dated 22. 2. 1917.

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The Govt. Sanctioned
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Selected for Conservation of
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(Sited at Udayagiri
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Taluk of the Nellore Dist.:-

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cation Section 3 of the
Ancient Monuments
Preservation Act declarin

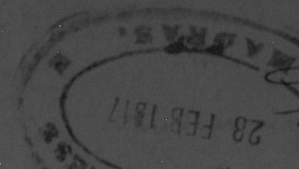
the above monuments
protected under the Act.

17.2.17
17.2.17

20.2.17

22.2.17

To the Supdt., Arch. Survey
Govt. of Nellore
Copy to the P. W. D.
A. A. S. for
Epigraphy
ET (order only)



For approval.

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DATED 22ND FEBRUARY 1917

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[G.O. No. 237, Home (Education), dated 22nd February 1917.]

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